5/11/70

Dick (5/6) and Howard (5/7),

Paul, whose work has been fruitful in nonsensational ways, was an hour and a half late getting here today, which killed time for me, and I spent less time with him than I'd have like to, because he was going to NY, but a big hunk of the day this disappeared and there remains little time.

I've not seen Sprague's actual article, but I gather from Paul, who has, that it is not all as wild as the reports indicate. Bud had nothing to do with it and apparently Sprague was less restrained in his press conference than in the magazine. My opinion, which may be both invalid and unfair, is that aside from an inventory of the pictures and the slight possibility of enhancement, as with Altgens, I have no confidence in it at all and I do have the deepest misgivings. It is the overflowed toilet that gets attention in our society. Glad to get the clip, too.

Vallee: if you do not have the new last chapter and the appendix, you do not have all the Vallee stuff.

Mayhew: I was unclear or you misunderstood. I asked you to let me know his address if you got a reply, unless that reply encouraged you to write him to determine if he could have any interest in my work.

Hangun: in your typically lucid commentary, I think you omitted one possibility(I do not say probability, but remember the gal in Kansas?): closeness. (Not from a sewer.)

Howard: the Specter thing is fine, too kind to him when you consider that as a lawyer it was his obligation to use best evidence only and he knew this was Gallagher. It is immaterial if those above him opposed it. He didn't have to stand still for it. What you wrote him is absolutely sound and, if anything, understated. I think Frazier went even farther to disqualify himself than you indicate(if I recall WW correctly, after all those many words) and the Commission itself disclosed its awareness of the transgression against proprieties and requirements (WW also, you can find from index).

Jack can give you a tape, if he wants to. He knows me well. We used to be very good friends. He apparently didn't like what I wrote him about Tink after he aired the most awful defamations of all other critics without a word of opposition. Tink really took him in. He also knows Specter has refused to confront me. He friend. And he knows I'd welcome it but that I told him it would not serve the cause of truth or justice to single out Specter alone to push into such a thing. You know Specter will not face me under any conditions. He gave up two TV things of which I know not to and refused, in all, at least two dozen challenges. If you call Jack about this and his producer is still Maury Levy, both great guys, please give them my best wishes. Despite this Tink business, Jack is still tops as a person, as a personality, and as a friend to use all when we needed friends. There is no more decent man in that business.

Now, about the spectro: I do not own it. I welcome your thought that perhaps you should have consulted with me. But neither my being the one to bring it out nor the plans I have for it of which you know give me exclusive rights. However, it was proper and very responsible of you to try and speak to me first. I do appreciate it. You seem to have done nothing that can in any way hurt. I think I'll probably be filing on that soon. Time is the always question...And let your elders, like Specter, patronize you. They think it helps them, but it has the opposite effect on thinking people and builds you up.

Best to both,